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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Fumihiko IWATA et al.

Application No.: 09/980,210

Filed: November 30, 2001

For: CONTROL OF DISTRIBUTED PRINTING WITH MULTIPLE PRINTERS

**RECEIVED**

APR 08 2002

Technology Center 2600

Docket No.: 111227

**SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 12 and 40 as follows:

12. (Amended) A distributed printing control method that distributes print data of interest, which is generated by an application program and is to be printed, into a plurality of printers, converts the distributed print data into output data suitable for each of said printers via a printer driver provided for said each printer, and transmits the converted output data to said each printer,

said distributed printing control method comprising at least one step corresponding to the structure of a distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 2.

40. (Amended) A computer readable recording medium in which a computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus is recorded, said distributed printing